

2026 LEGISLATIVE ADVOCACY UPDATES

Behavioral Health Legislative Updates from the Indiana Statehouse
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February 13, 2026



Stephanie Anderson, COO, Mental Health America of Indiana
SB 91 - Syringe Exchange Program

2026 Indiana General Assembly

Priority Bills:

HB 1296: Mental Health Services (Bascom, Barrett, Goss-Reaves, Porter/ Clark, Crider, Ford, Jackson, Yoder, Becker, Schmitt)

HB 1296 Passes Senate Unanimously (50-0)

Mental Health America of Indiana is proud to share that House Bill 1296 passed the Indiana Senate unanimously with a 50-0 vote.

HB 1296 would require both the certification of Integrated Reentry and Correctional Support (IRACs) programs as well as the registration of Recovery Residences.

MHA appreciates the collaboration of lawmakers in both chambers who prioritize the behavioral health infrastructure for Hoosiers. As HB 1296 advances, we remain committed to working alongside state leaders to progress implement the bill.

SB 91: Syringe Exchange Program (Crider, Charbonneau, Clark, Yoder, Walker, Bohacek, Jackson, Randolph, Pol/ Clere, Lawson)

On February 10, the House Public Health Committee heard Senate Bill 91, legislation addressing the sunset of Indiana's syringe exchange program.

Stephanie Anderson testified both as MHA's COO and as an Indiana licensed clinical social worker who served as the behavioral health lead during Indiana's largest HIV outbreak in Scott County in 2015. Drawing from that experience, she emphasized the importance of evidence-based addiction policy and the role syringe exchange programs play in protecting public health.

Mental Health America of Indiana supports policies that reduce infectious disease transmission and expand pathways into treatment and recovery. The House Committee recommends passage, as amended Yeas: 9; Nays: 4

To stay informed about the bills MHA is tracking and sign up for future Advocacy Alerts, please see below:

[Bill List](#)



Hoosier Idol 2026 Recap

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Thank you to those who were able to join us for Hoosier Idol 2026 and helping us celebrate 75 years of Mental Health America of Indiana.

From the acts to the inspirational testimonial shared during the program, the evening was a meaningful reminder of why mental health advocacy matters. We are especially grateful to our performers and to Brett Havlin for sharing his story and helping shine a light on the importance of our work.

Congratulations to the **Senate Democratic Caucus** for taking home another Hoosier Idol title!

If you were inspired by the performances or the message of the night, there is still time to support our mission. Your gift helps us continue advocating for mental health across Indiana.

To view our photo gallery, click the link below.

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